

Annual Report 2016

ECREA International & Intercultural Communication Section

The ECREA International and Intercultural Section (IIC) has been active since early 2006.

1. Membership

In 2016, the section has 490 members according to the information provided to us by ECREA vice-president Ilija Tomanic Trivundza on 10 November 2016.

2. Management and scope of the IIC Section

Until the ECREA conference in Prague, the management team consisted of Teresa Velázquez (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain - chair) who was supported by two vice chairs; Daniele Canedo (Universidade Federal do Recôncavo da Bahia, Brazil) and Stijn Joye (Ghent University, Belgium). During the business meeting, a new management team was elected. Stijn Joye (Ghent University) will act as the new chair, supported by vice chairs Romy Wöhlert (University of Leipzig) and Ricardo Carniel Bugs (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona). Estibaliz Ortega (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain) remained as the section's representative for YECREA.

In terms of our mission statement and the section's scope, we aim to support research that observes different forms of cross-border dialogue, exchange and flows between and/or within nations, regions, cultures, communities and individuals. We define our section's field of interest very broadly by referring to all types of cross-border or global communication as we focus on mediated and (inter)personal forms of communication from the perspective of production, distribution, content and reception. The section also endorses academic work on the social, economic, political and cultural characteristics and consequences of globalization and international and intercultural communication processes, in addition to research on the role of communication in international cooperation projects.

Next to our ECREA supported website, the management team hosts - since 2013 - a blog to keep in touch with our members as well as with other stakeholders and peers outside of the organization. The URL is <http://internationalandintercultural.wordpress.com/> We also have a Facebook and Twitter account as a way of actively engaging with our members.

3. Organization of events

In 2016, most efforts were focused on the organization and preparation of the *6th European Communication Conference* in Prague. The section program chair was Stijn Joye. We have assembled a reviewers group of ten scholars (see Table 1 for an overview) who have volunteered in reviewing abstract submissions and to whom we would like to express our sincere gratitude in taking on this task. All reviewers work in the field of international and intercultural communication and were members of the section. The International and Intercultural Communication section received 49 abstracts (three panel proposals and 34 individual paper proposals). The proposals were reviewed following a double-blind peer review policy. The review process resulted in the selection of two panels, twenty papers and five posters for the Prague conference.

Table 1. Reviewers for Prague 2016

- Aytakin Nihan
- Bratosin Stefan
- Diers-Lawson Audra
- Gross Peter
- Herdin Thomas
- Lie Rico
- Ortega Estibaliz
- Serafeim Katerina
- Traudt Paul
- Wöhlert Romy

4. Future plans

Being relatively successful in attracting members, we are looking to benefit more from our large membership by **activating** our members. Accordingly, it is our ambition to invite them to participate more and contact us with their ideas for future conferences or other initiatives, which we can support as a management team.

Secondly, **cooperation** with other ECREA sections continues to be a strategic priority for the upcoming year. For our **section conference** in 2017, we have been successful in joining forces with the ‘Diaspora, migration and the media’ section. On 2-3 November 2017 the conference will take place at the University of Basque Country in Bilbao (Spain) and will focus on the theme of migration and communication flows in order to rethink borders, conflict and identity through the digital. The conference will include keynote lectures by Marie Gillespie (Professor of Sociology, The Open University) and Pedro Oiarzabal (expert on Internet and Basque studies, migration and diaspora); a roundtable to establish bridges of dialogue between academics studying the coverage of migrants and journalists reporting on various conflicts in Europe, addressing methodological and ethical challenges; a YECREA event dedicated to young scholars (PhD and postdoc level); a joint panel to broaden the empirical, conceptual and methodological scope of the conference and to explore future collaborations; and an elaborate social program, including a conference dinner and boat tour, allowing participants to enjoy the city of Bilbao.

The IIC Section management team

Chair: Stijn Joye (Ghent University, Belgium)

Vice Chair: Romy Wöhlert (University of Leipzig)

Vice Chair: Ricardo Carniel Bugs (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

April 2017